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To: Parents of Louisiana's 9th grade students

From: E. Joseph Savoie, Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education

This year's 9th grade students -- your daughter or son -- will be the first students directly affected by a new set of admission requirements for all public, four-year universities in Louisiana. We believe these new standards will provide the foundation necessary for high school graduates to be successful in college.

Beginning in the fall 2005, to enroll in a Louisiana public four-year university, your son or daughter must have:

- 1. Completed the Regents' Core Academic Curriculum
(currently the TOPS core)**

And

- 2. One of the following:**
 - a. a high school grade point average of 2.0 or higher,**
or
 - b. an ACT composite score of 20 or higher,**
or
 - c. graduation from high school in the top 50% of the class**

**Some universities will have higher requirements. We strongly suggest you contact a university's admissions office or your high school guidance counselor for assistance.*

If your son or daughter plans to attend a four-year university, please be sure he or she takes the TOPS core curriculum when scheduling classes for the 10th grade. This is required for admission to a Louisiana public university and greatly increases a student's chances of qualifying for TOPS. If you have any questions, please contact your school guidance counselor, my office, or visit our website at www.regents.state.la.us.

It is never too early to begin planning for the future. With your assistance, your son or daughter will have a more successful future in school. We hope that future includes attendance at one of Louisiana's colleges or universities.